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only one on the program for the evening, had notified the Council that, owing to illness, he would not be able to read it, and the Society adjourned at 8.30 p. m.

FIFTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING, March 7, 1882.

Dr. ROBERT FLETCHER, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The election of Mr. E. W. Nelson, of the Smithsonian Institution, as an active member of the Society, was announced.

Mr. IVAN PETROFF then read a paper on the "LIMITS OF THE INNUIT TRIBES ON THE PACIFIC COAST."*

DISCUSSION.

Mr. NELSON, who had spent much time in Alaska, spoke of a mixed tribe, or race, intermediate between the Innuits and the Tinné Indians, which he had met while there, and which he thought to be identical with another interior tribe, though modified as to language and customs. He also mentioned an Eskimo tribe, supposed to have immigrated from Northeastern Asia, but which had become much assimilated in language, customs, etc., to the Alaskan Indians.

Mr. GATSCHET spoke of the Aleuts, and inquired whether any indications existed that they had migrated from Asia. He said there was no such thing as an originally island tribe; they must have come from some part of the main land. He also commented on the derivation of the word Aleut as affording some clue to their origin.

Mr. PETROFF replied that the words Aleut and Innuits were probably identical in origin, and that he had found Aleuts at Bristol Bay, and that certain characteristic cooking utensils of that tribe had been taken from kitchen refuse on the main land, which proved their former occupation of those parts.

Prof. MASON reproduced some of Mr. Dall's arguments to establish the great antiquity of the human occupancy of Alaska. He

* Printed in *Am. Nat.*, XVI, No. 7, 1882, pp. 567-575.

also inquired what had been the effect of the change from Russian to American ownership of the territory.

To the latter question Mr. Petroff replied that under Russian rule the tribes were not allowed to move, but that now there were no restrictions, although they did not manifest much disposition to migrate. He thought that the population showed no marked tendency either to increase or decrease ; at Cook's Inlet there were only eighteen less persons in 1880 than in 1868, although it was a notoriously unhealthy locality. He apprehended, however, that the recent introduction of intoxicating liquors would soon begin to tell upon the population. Formerly no such beverages were in use except a mild drink made from meal and called *kwak*, but in 1876, a still was erected by the whites at Cook's Inlet.

Mr. NELSON stated that he had noted a marked decrease in the population of certain localities, but that he was inclined to attribute this result chiefly to the almost total extermination in those parts of the reindeer.

Dr. KING asked whether infanticide had been observed among the Indians of Alaska, and also what were the marriage customs.

Mr. PETROFF replied that he had never seen any traces of infanticide. He said that the marriage ceremonies were very simple, and in some tribes scarcely existed at all. The Innuits were nearly all members of the Russian church. Those on Torriac bay were monogamous, and appeared to treat their wives kindly. The natives of Prince William Sound were in the habit of taking wives from them, in most cases simply purchasing them. Wife-lending prevails as a rite of hospitality, and he thought that this custom had done much to mix the blood of the different tribes.

In reply to further questions he stated that the Innuits were sometimes without chiefs, and that each tribe had its totem.

Mr. HENRY BAKER asked whether there was any danger that the United States would ever become involved in war with any of these Indians, and Mr. Petroff explained that, owing to their paucity of number, no serious results need be apprehended. The more western tribes were all peaceable, and only the lower Thlinkits and Kolo-shes were disposed to be hostile ; these numbered some 5,000 or 6,000, and, owing to the ease with which they could retreat to British soil if attacked, they might make trouble. The Indians around Cape Prince of Wales had a bad reputation, but the interior

tribes were too thinly scattered to cause any alarm. The Aleutian Islanders were thoroughly christianized.

FIFTY-FOURTH REGULAR MEETING, March 21, 1882.

Dr. ROBERT FLETCHER, Vice President, in the Chair.

Prof. G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Director of the National Museum, read a paper on "THE CLASSIFICATION OF OBJECTS IN THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM IN ITS RELATIONS TO ANTHROPOLOGY."

Hectograph copies of an elaborate synopsis of the classification proposed were distributed to the members.

OUTLINE OF A SCHEME OF MUSEUM CLASSIFICATION.*

1. Mankind ; 2. The Earth as Man's Abode ; 3. Natural Resources ; 4. The Exploitative Industries ; 5. The Elaborative Industries ; 6. Ultimate Products and their Utilization ; 7. Social Relations of Mankind ; 8. Intellectual Occupations of Mankind.

DISCUSSION.

Prof. MASON referred to the fundamental division of objects into those which were actually represented by specimens and those whose nature only admitted of some descriptive illustration, and also commended the proposed innovation of uniting, so far as required for the purpose, the elements of a library with those of a museum as popularly understood. He further pointed out the unavoidable-ness of a certain amount of overlapping in so extensive a classification, and inquired whether the head "Inorganic Matter," placed under "Natural Resources" in the synopsis, would not more naturally fall under the preceding division "The Earth as Man's Abode," and similarly of "Force."

Prof. GOODE replied that under "Inorganic Matter" it was proposed to arrange the mineralogical and chemical substances, and under "Force," only such apparatus as are used in illustrating

*An analysis of the scheme was printed in the Proceedings United States National Museum, 1881. Appendix. No. 13.